

Michigan's consumers today benefit by knowing their homes, offices, groceries, schools and other buildings are constructed using the most up-to-date techniques, proven to improve safety and reduce energy costs.

HB 4561 would undermine that sense of comfort. Today, Michigan's building codes that govern electricity, heating and ventilation systems, building and other keys elements of construction are updated every three years. HB 4561 would delay those updates, requiring them to only be updated every six years.

That means the homes built in 2015 year will be done to national standards agreed to in 2009. Imagine buying a new cell phone that is only able to perform to standards of 2009 – or a new car that doesn't have innovations developed over the past six years.

Our current law requiring updated construction practices every three years benefits consumers. Yes, it requires builders to do a little more work – but the cost savings and safety improvements are worth it.

Michigan's building codes, today considered among the best in the nation, are key to holding down insurance costs for homes, office and retail facilities and government buildings.

HB 4561, would damage our state's position as a leader in building code implementation – and drive up insurance rates for homes and other buildings.

According to insurance industry officials, the state's practice today of updating its building codes every three years, as recommended by national construction experts, is a key factor in our state's good reputation. HB 4561 would put our state well behind the national recommendations.

As a result, new developments that help hold down claims from building owners due to fire, storm damage and other factors would not be implemented in our state. Insurers will see higher claims than they would otherwise – and rates will be adjusted accordingly.

The Governor has said he is counting on Michigan again becoming a leader in innovation to restore our state's economy. HB 4561 would undermine that leadership, and hurt the effort to change Michigan's culture to one of invention and modernization.

Michigan updates its building codes every three years. That means new innovations that have been developed in the construction industry are incorporated into buildings – many of them innovations coming from Michigan companies.

HB 4561 would require that the building codes be updated only every six years. New safety and cost saving innovations would not be included – and may not be available to Michigan families and businesses, since standards for their introduction to buildings wouldn't be available.

HB 4561 is opposed by many of the state's major construction interests, ranging from Associated Builders and Contractors to the state's fire chiefs – as well as the Michigan Manufacturers Association, National Electrical Contractors Association, International Association of Electrical Inspectors as well as Dow Chemical, General Motors and many others which represents many of those companies trying to bring proven new innovations to market.

I hope this gives you a better understanding of our objections to the bill. I am also providing a link to an op-ed piece written by Dave Williams (Michigan Chapter, International Association of Electrical Inspectors) where you can see others responses to this legislation.

<http://iaei-michigan.org/MEC.htm>

If I can provide any further information to you, please let me know.

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